

Testimony of Gary Faraci, Maple Leaf Manor
in opposition to
S.B. No. 978 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES.
Human Services Committee- March 11, 2015

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Gary Faraci. I am the owner of Maple Leaf Manor in Hartford and a member of the Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes. I am here today to testify in **strong support of SB 978- An Act Concerning Residential Care Homes.**

This legislation is important to not only my home but my staff. It would enable staff at our home to earn a little bit more and ensure I can continue to operate.

I have not given my employees a raise in 5 years due to frozen rates in our industry. In fact I am charging them more for copayments on their health insurance premiums. I will likely be forced to increase their co-pay again this year if we do not see a bill like this passed. This is because the price of electricity continues to increase, insurance costs have increased and other circumstances such as the snow have led to significantly higher costs.

Additionally, I have been forced to suspend contributions to the pension fund for several years. These changes in benefits are at a time when my staff only makes an average of \$12.00 per hour. This is happening despite working directly with a challenging and vulnerable group of residents. In my home this can mean a range of work with residents who often have a mental disability.

Without better rates and benefits homes are subject to high staff turnover. This is particularly troubling considering the importance of staff in developing trust and relationships with our residents.

Please consider raising the rates on our homes. We remain a great bargain for the state and the tax payers for what we provide- room and board, food, and additional support services. I am afraid employee morale is low. They are outstanding caregivers to the disabled community and get no reward for their efforts, they need raises in their salaries just to survive and I cannot feel more strongly about that.

On behalf of our home, the staff and residents included, I urge you to support Senate Bill 978- An Act Concerning Residential Care Homes.

Thank you.

Gary Faraci
Maple Leaf Manor